

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making ~~wound dressing including~~ a perforated silicone gel layer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a perforation device having a planar surface and a plurality of perforating elements extending from the planar surface;

heating the perforation device to a curing temperature of an uncured silicone gel;

placing a layer of uncured silicone gel having a thickness directly onto a the ~~heated planar surface of a the~~ perforation device ~~having a plurality of perforating elements that extend through the silicone gel layer, wherein the perforating elements located on and extending from the planar surface~~ extend a distance therefrom greater than the thickness of the uncured silicone gel; and

peeling the silicone gel away from the perforation device when at least a surface of the silicone gel layer adjacent the planar surface has at least partially cured.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the perforating elements have a cross-section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, square, triangular, elliptical, rectilinear and combinations thereof.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the perforating elements are equally spaced from one another.

Claims 5-13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14. (New) A perforation device for making a perforated silicone gel layer, comprising:

a generally planar surface;

a plurality of perforating elements connected to and extending from the planar surface, the perforating elements being arranged in a predetermined pattern such that they are generally uniformly spaced and shaped;

wherein the perforating elements extend a distance from the planar surface at a length between 0.02 and 1.0 mm, and have a density of 5 to 300 perforating elements per cm^2 ;

wherein the perforation device is arranged to be heated to a generally uniform temperature.

Claim 15. (New) The perforation device according to claim 14, wherein the perforating elements have a cross-section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, square, triangular, elliptical, rectilinear and combinations thereof.

Claim 16. (New) The perforation device according to claim 14, wherein the perforating elements are equally spaced from one another.

Claim 17. (New) A method for making a perforated silicone gel layer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a perforation device having a planar surface and a plurality of perforating elements connected to and extending from the planar surface, the perforating elements arranged in a predetermined pattern such that they are generally uniformly spaced and shaped;

depositing a layer of uncured silicone gel having a thickness directly onto the planar surface of the perforation device, wherein the perforating elements extend a distance therefrom greater than the thickness of the uncured silicone gel;

uniformly heating the perforation device to a curing temperature of an uncured silicone gel after the uncured silicone gel is deposited onto the planar surface, such that apertures are molded in the silicone gel layer as a result of the heat of the perforating elements; and

discretely peeling the silicone gel layer away from the perforation device when at least a surface of the silicone gel layer adjacent the planar surface has at least partially cured, and the apertures in the silicone gel layer are definitively formed and permanently molded in the predetermined pattern.